



Characteristics of a Leader in the Church
Lesson 2: Respectable / Of Good Behavior, Hospitable,
Able to Teach, Not Given to Wine

1. Introduction / Review

When Paul looked for leaders in the early church, he looked for a certain kind of person.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-10

These are qualifications for leaders. However, they are also character traits that every Christian man should possess.

- Above reproach / Blameless
- Husband of one wife
- Temperate
- Sober-minded
- Respectable / Of good behavior
- Hospitable
- Able to teach / Holding fast the faithful Word as he has been taught
- Not given to wine
- Not self-willed
- Not quick-tempered
- Not violent

- Not quarrelsome
- Gentle
- Free from the love of money / Not covetous
- One who manages his own household well
- A good reputation with those outside the church
- Love what is good
- Just / Holy
- Not a new convert
- Self-controlled

This list goes beyond generalizations and gives specific characteristics of a man or woman of God.

2. Respectable / Of good behavior

Definition of RESPECTABLE: _____

It speaks of a person who has a well-ordered life

The verb form of this word reveals a better understanding of what the adjective means.

Matthew 12:44

Luke 21:5

Titus 2:9, 10

We must live in such a way that our lives _____

Your lifestyle should adorn the teachings of the Bible.

Evaluate your life-style openly and honestly before God. The following questions will help you:

- What about my external appearance? Does it measure up to what is considered proper both biblically and culturally?
- What about the house I live in? Did I buy it to impress people, or did buy it to glorify Jesus Christ?
- What about my speech? Do I use words to build up others or to build up myself? Do I glorify God with my words, or do I glorify myself? Does my speech adorn the Word of God?

Below are some Bible verses about being respectable in business and outside of the church:

1 Thessalonians 4:10-12

Colossians 3:23, 24

Below are some Bible verses about being respectable in your social life:

1 Corinthians 10:31, 32

Colossians 4:5, 6

1 Peter 2:12

Below are some Bible verses about being respectable in your church life:

Philippians 2:3, 4

Romans 14:19

3. Hospitable

Hospitable literally means “being fond of guests and strangers.”

It means more than simply just talking someone into your home; it means being kind to them while they are there!

Being hospitable is an act of Christian love.

Romans 12:9-13

Hebrews 13:1, 2

1 Peter 4:8, 9

John 13:35

It is very interesting that Paul included this in a list of qualities of leaders. It is considered a mark of Christian maturity

You should not wait for a desire to be hospitable. The desire may never come. As a matter of fact, you should not wait for a “feeling” in any of these areas before doing them.

A sure sign of spiritual maturity is that you are willing to do the things you don’t feel like doing.

4. Able to teach / Holding fast the faithful Word as he has been taught

Paul is not speaking about someone who is a good public communicator or about the spiritual gift teaching.

2 Timothy 2:23-26

In this passage the phrase “able to teach”, in verse 24, is surrounded by significant words all having to do with qualities of life. They describe a person who is in control of himself.

Definition of ABLE TO TEACH: Being able to communicate with others, without being quarrelsome and stirring up arguments. It is the ability to control oneself when communicating.

Titus 1:9

What does the phrase “holding fast the faithful word” mean?

- This phrase means that you have convictions that you will not give up.
- You cannot be swayed concerning salvation, healing, and other foundational doctrines.

5. Not given to wine

Definition of GIVEN TO WINE: _____

In other words, it speaks about someone who over drinks.

This does not teach that we cannot partake of wine. It does teach that we should not be addicted to it.

However, when we studied the characteristic of being temperate we learned that temperate also means sober. Its root word in the Greek means to abstain from wine.

Proverbs 23:29-35

Romans 14:21

We should not be addicted to strong drink. This is an important principle. However there is a higher principle in this verse. There are times and situations when total abstinence is the best way to live.

We should never cause someone else to stumble. To partake may cause weak Christian to stumble and sin against God.

We should always follow this _____

To allow oneself to be controlled by anything is sin, not just alcohol.

Proverbs 23:19-21**1 Corinthians 6:19, 20****1 Corinthians 10:31**